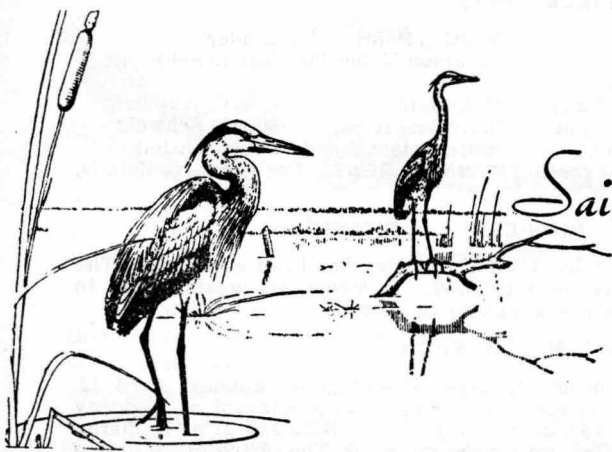




Saint Louis Audubon

Bulletin

Vol. 21, No. 4

April, 1953

AUDUBON AWARDS

On Friday, March 13, at the Third Baptist Church, Grand and Washington, the Audubon Awards made possible through Loyalty Contributions were presented. The \$100 Audubon Nature Camp Scholarship was awarded to Lester Newman, 8749 Teasdale, a sophomore at Washington University, in recognition of his services to the cause of conservation. He will attend the Audubon Camp of Maine, in the Todd Wildlife Sanctuary, a picturesque wooded island in Muscongus Bay, about 65 miles northeast of Portland. Youth leaders with a hobby or professional interest in conservation participate in field trips which demonstrate the best methods of good teaching of the wiser use of our natural resources and its relationship to human welfare.

Presentation of *Birds over America* by Roger Tory Peterson, was made to Miss Mildred Reese, 930 Bates, in recognition of her service to the Audubon Society. Presentation of *Field Guide* by Roger Tory Peterson, was made to LaVerne Bruno of Scullen School, 4160 N. Kingshighway, for her outstanding work and interest in ornithology. Scholarship memberships in the Society were awarded to Larry Burns, Jr., 7446 Wayne; Clinton Carman, 4853 Natural Bridge; Marvin Cytron, 6906 Pershing; John Groth, 7538 Wayne; Jim Nibeck, 1251 Hafner, and Gordon Price, 812 Leland.

A 1953-54 series of Free Screen Tour nature programs for St. Louis elementary school children will again be sponsored by our Society. This is made possible as a Loyalty contribution by a former teacher and conservation leader and is handled through the Division of Audio-Visual Education. These matinees are a wonderful privilege for boys and girls and offer the best kind of conservation teaching. The programs at Vashon and Southwest have been such a gratifying activity that we hope to have a similar program in the county as soon as Loyalty contributions make it possible.

The screen tour programs for this season have been excellent and arrangements already have been made to bring other outstanding out-of-doors lecturers to St. Louis for a 1953-54 series, the eleventh season.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Division of Audio-Visual Education, 1517 S. Theresa, will have an Open House on Friday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m. They will show us the kinds of conservation work carried on in the St. Louis Public Schools. At this meeting, we shall have the reports of the Officers and Committee Chairmen, election of officers, and a movie taken at Glacier National Park. Mr. Waldemar Palm is in charge of the meeting.

FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips	Date - Time	Meeting Point	Leader
Forest Park	Sun., Apr. 19, 26 May 3, 10, 7:30 a.m.	Jefferson Memorial	Martin Schweig
Shaw's Garden	Sat., Apr. 18, 25, 8 a.m.	Main Gate	L. & C. Wamhoff
Spring Census	Sun., May 3, Daylight	Individual trips	Martin Schweig
Creve Coeur Lake	Sun., May 17, 7 a.m.	Refreshment Stand	Beulah Bedell

For directions, see **GUIDE TO ST. LOUIS BIRDING AREAS.** For complete details, call Leader.

PICNICS

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Our plan to reduce our debt by Audubon Picnics has been successful. The \$750 debt of last year has been reduced to \$250. Members are again asked to attend two Spring Picnics. Tickets are available in advance.

DONATION, \$1.00 EACH

The first will be at the Charles M. Rice Sanctuary on Sunday, April 12, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Directions: 14 miles south from Lindbergh Boulevard on Highway 21 to Jefferson County Highway M (Antonio Road). Leave Highway 21 at Lutheran Church, turn left into Antonio 2 miles, turn right on Black Top, drive $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to top of Goldman Hill (Hill Top), turn left and drive 1 mile to Lodge. This land is a portion of the foothills of the Ozarks, containing unusual rock formations, bluffs, springs and streams. There are many different types of gardens, glade, cliffside, upland meadow, lowland meadow, oak-hickory woodland, closed glade, flood-plain, gravel bar, brookside and swamp. The Sugar Camp Hollow Trail is an outstanding example of conservation practices. For several hundred feet on each side of the trail, the woods have been thinned to increase visibility. Injured and undesirable trees have been removed and piled in hedges along the contour lines of the hills to catch and hold the leaves, to retard erosion and speed up soil building. Those who attended last year know that this is a trip worth repeating every year.

The second picnic will be at the Joseph Desloge Estate, Vouziers, Florissant, on Sunday, June 7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Take Lindbergh Boulevard to Jct. 66-67 north of Lambert Field. Follow Highway 67 to New Halls Ferry Road. Follow it west to Shackelford Road and watch for Audubon signs. The land is hilly and is cut by lateral creeks which empty into the Missouri River. The trails cross the hills and follow the creeks down to the river plain. Many types of wildflowers can be found. The terrain is varied and there are trails suitable for all types of nature walks. In case of rain, movies will be shown indoors.

Bring a picnic lunch
Donation, \$1.00 each
Children under 16, Free
Guests are welcome

Stay on Paths
Do not pick wildflowers
or break branches of
shrubs or trees.

Tickets available at all field trips

— Write or call —

Executive Secretary
516 Bacon
Webster Groves 19, Mo.
Tulane 4-2092

Mr. Earl Hath
2109 Briargate Lane
Kirkwood 22, Mo.
Terryhill 3-4104

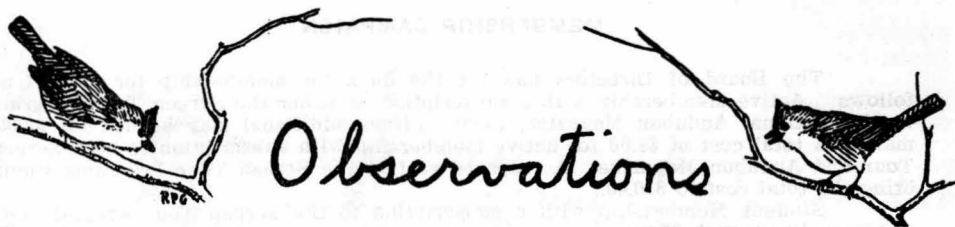
If you have space in your car, please call us. Many members want transportation.

SPRING BIRD WALKS

The Society is anxious to have leaders and assistant leaders for the Bird Walks at Forest Park and Shaw's Garden this spring. These educational field excursions are now a traditional event in St. Louis. They are an important way of arousing and stimulating interest in birds. By conducting these trips we provide a real source of enjoyment to people of this area.

Call Martin Schweig, ROsedale 4226, if you can assist him at Forest Park

Call Lois Wamhoff, FLanders 7786, if you can assist her at Shaw's Garden.



By James Earl Comfort

In the St. Louis Area, the 1953 half of the winter was considerably milder than normal, resulting in unusually large concentrations of dabbling or pond ducks. Most large concentrations were made up of Pintails and Mallards, with Pintails far more numerous in late February and early March. Practically every body of water echoed the plaintive pintail calls, which could be heard before the ducks were in sight. Largest gatherings of diving ducks were on the Mississippi River above Alton at Harbor Point Village, Portage de Sioux and Weber Lake. The best ducks of the year have been Old Squaw, American and White-winged Scoters. The first week of March showed a total of 21 duck species.

In spite of the open winter, several species of birds that often remain during our more severe winters were absent or scarce and there was a larger representation of northern species than in most years. Evidently birds do not read the weather predictions.

The Busch Wildlife Area has gained popularity among our members. Such recent rare birds as the Vermillion Flycatcher, Green-tailed Towhee, Say's Phoebe and Gambel's Sparrow have greatly augmented its popularity. The sanctuary housing shortage for Bluebirds was solved by Rex Conyers' University City High School Field and Forest Conservation Club. His boys have assembled and put up over 200 bird boxes of the Musselman type, made from scrap wood from building projects. The string of houses, placed on telephone poles will be extended. The nests will be checked and young birds banded by the members of the club, and records will be kept. This may be the longest bluebird "trail" to be found within a specific area. If you wish to observe real enthusiasm, witness such work by these boys who realize a worth-while project is being undertaken. There is no doubt that Rex is responsible for it. Loss of his talented students through graduation is no handicap because the graduates usually retain an interest in Rex's projects.

The "Bird of the Year" to date was found by Eugene Wilhelm at Kenrick Seminary on January 24, when a Pine Grosbeak appeared among Siskins and Redpolls. This is the first modern record for this Grosbeak. Some other good birds of the year not mentioned have been Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Krider's, Rough-legged and Western Red-tailed Hawks, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Long-eared Owl, Harris and Leconte's Sparrows, Spotted Towhee and Snow Bunting. Unusual birds of the year in Winter have been Savannah Sparrow, Dickcissel, Great Blue Heron, Brown Thrasher and Phoebe.

Final figures of 1952 show a total of 289 St. Louis Area species of birds with Dick Anderson leading the individual lists with 266. There were 11 listers with more than 200 species. The consensus of opinion is that the late-departed Winter was generally enjoyed. The warblers cannot be far behind now.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Board of Directors has set the dues for membership for 1953-54 as follows: Active Membership with a subscription to either the Screen Tour Program or the National Audubon Magazine, \$5.00. Either additional may be had for \$3.00, making a total cost of \$8.00 for active membership with subscription to both Screen Tour and Audubon Magazine. A reserved seat at the Screen Tour Programs would bring the total cost to \$10.00.

Student Membership with a subscription to the Screen Tour Program and Outdoors Illustrated, \$5.00.

Screen Tour Membership \$3.00

ENCOURAGE A FRIEND TO JOIN

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The nominating Committee will meet soon to prepare a slate of Officers and Directors for the coming year. Who are the capable and promising Audubon members of your acquaintance? Please call or write your suggestions to Dean William Glasgow Bowling, 7629 Carondelet Avenue, St. Louis 5, Mo., Parkview 3030.

SEASONAL BIRD-WATCHING

One of the most satisfying aspects of bird-watching for the "home yard" birder is that of behavior, as the birds get their living, care for their families, and meet emergencies of self protection. Two of our members reported a nature event which happened in their bird-haven yard in Cameron, Missouri, last nesting season. The robins had built on top of an occupied wren house, where there was no protection of any kind from sun or rain. It was not a typical robin nesting site. When the young were about half grown, a heavy rain came up suddenly during the afternoon. Both parent birds sat on the edge of the nest, facing each other, with outspread wings, sheltering their young for over thirty minutes during the downpour. Do you think I would tell my Mom and Dad that the authorities tell us this is automatic behavior; that no real concern or affection as we feel it, was felt by the parents. Did I believe it myself? Do you believe it?

The Editor

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN

VOL. 21, NO. 4 APRIL, 1953

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Secy.....Mrs. Arthur L. Hughes

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